

Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 000600-008

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 have been cancelled, and claim 11 has been amended to depend from independent claim 12. Composition claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the recitation of the combination of isodurene and durene, and is therefore consistent with the scope of process claim 12 as originally presented. Entry of these amendments and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Langel for the courteous telephone interview of June 20, 2005, at which the art of record and the claims were discussed. Although no agreement was reached on allowable subject matter, the Examiner did agree to at least consider entering amendments to the claims along the lines proposed above.

Claims 12 and 20 recite the combination of isodurene and durene as the quinone solvent. The cited prior art neither anticipates nor renders obvious the combination of these two solvents. Although Schreyer et al mentions the use of aromatic hydrocarbons, there is no specific teaching of the use of durene. This omission is glaring, given the fact that the reference does list isodurene as one in a large list of useful compounds (see, Col. 2, lines 11-23 of Schreyer et al.) One skilled in the art, reading Schreyer et al as a whole, would therefore be led away from the combination of isodurene and durene, since if durene were contemplated by the reference, it surely would have been mentioned along with isodurene.

Moreover, Schreyer et al specifically states at Col. 2, lines 18-20 that the only useful isomers are those which are liquid under conditions of the anthraquinone process. The examples in the reference state the process temperature as either 48°C (Example 1) or 45°C (Example 2). As durene melts at 79°C, Schreyer et al could not have contemplated its use, and in fact the high melting point of durene could have been a pivotal reason for its omission in the reference.

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Giesselmann et al and Gore et al also fail to teach or suggest the use of durene in combination with isodurene and hence fail to anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention for similar reasons.


Applicants therefore respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

1217 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 299-0035 telephone
(703) 299-0036 facsimile

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Respectfully submitted,

WHITE, REDWAY & BROWN LLP

By: 
David J. Serbin
Registration No. 30,589